

[Robinson, William P.]

## WILLIAM P. ROBINSON IS DEAD

William P. Robinson, one of the oldest, best known and highly respected citizens of Auburn, died today at the family home, No. 22 Court street, at the ripe old age of 87 years.

The career of Mr. Robinson has been one of varied activities until a few years ago when he retired from active business and official business.

The deceased was one of the Old Guard in the Republican ranks of Cayuga County and in years gone by his advice and counsel were sought by the big men of the party in the convention, and he was a staunch supporter of the Republican Party in the city, county, state and nation. He was a chum of Chauncey M. Depew.

Mr. Robinson held about every office in the gift of his party from supervisor up to member of the Assembly at Albany and his last official position was collector of internal revenue for the U. S. Government for the district including Auburn, where he made his headquarters. His record throughout was marked by painstaking and efficient effort and his unfailing genial and gentlemanly qualities endeared him to all with whom he came in contact in private and business relations.

He had been in failing health for some time and his death was due to the infirmities which come to old age. The people of Auburn sincerely mourn the passing away of a fine gentleman and a sterling citizen. Arrangements for the funeral are incomplete.

A brief sketch of his career:

He was born in Westerly, R. I., June 13, 1834, the son of Dr. Horation [sic] and Mary Robinson<sup>1</sup>, both of whom were descended from the Rev. John Robinson, the Pilgrim pastor, whose sons emigrated to America soon after the Mayflower's first voyage to Plymouth.

He received a common school education and was then fitted for Hamilton College, where he graduated. He was local editor of the old Auburn Advertiser for several years, during that period being also clerk of the Board of Supervisors for two terms, and was three terms a supervisor in the Second Ward.

In the Fall of 1862 he was elected to the State Assembly from the second Cayuga District; and he was reelected the next year, taking his seat in 1864. On the completion of this portion of his political career, Mr. Robinson began the manufacture of corn shellers and other agricultural implements, but this did not keep him long from public office, for through his warm friend, the late Hon. Charles J. Folger, he was appointed deputy commissioner of taxes of New York City, a place which he held for 14 years.

In 1887 he returned to Auburn and took charge of the publishing and printing department of the D. M. Osborne & Co. till 1890, when he was elected supervisor of the Ninth Ward, which he retained for a number of years by re-election, at the same time doing efficient work for the Republican County Committee.

He was married on Christmas day, 1856, to Miss Louise E. Smith of this city, [daughter of Byron Clark Smith and Charlotte Thompson Letchworth], a sister of the Hon. J. Wesley Smith of the old Albany Argus, and Byron C. C. Smith, who was at that time a leading business man of Auburn. Seven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Robinson, all except one of whom, Mary Ann Robinson [who died April 4, 1921], survive the deceased.

They are Miss Julia and Miss Agnes Robinson of this city, Charles and Frank Robinson of Newburgh, Frederick W. Robinson of New York, and Mrs. Edgar S. Jennings of this city.

*Auburn Citizen*, Auburn NY, Fri. 21 Oct 1921

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<sup>1</sup> This was a Universalist family.